

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph no. 8, page 4 (which bridges over to page 9) with the following amended paragraph:

The tube 90 is connected to an end of the cylinder 64 of the injection apparatus 60. A passage for liquid medicine defined by the tube 90 is equipped with, for example, a supply valve 70 for supplying the medicine into the cylinder ~~90~~ 64 before using the apparatus. A clamp 72 is also provided to cut off a stream of medicine flowing along the tube 90 if necessary. The structure of the tube connected to the injection apparatus may be that disclosed in PCT Publication No. WO 02/11791 A1, and a relevant portion of details disclosed in PCT Publication No. WO 02/11791 A1 is incorporated herein by reference. A distal end connection member 80 and a cap 10 for plugging an opening of the connection member 80 are connected to a distal end of the tube 90. When the medicine is injected into a human body, the cap 10 is removed and the connection member 80 is connected to an inlet of a member (e.g., catheter) directly inserted into the human body.

Please replace the first full paragraph, page 5 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to FIG. 2, a cylindrical projection 84 is provided at an end of the connection member 80. The projection 84 is provided with a communication hole 86. The medicine is supplied through the hole 86. The connection member 80 is provided with a cylindrical wall ~~84~~ 82 surrounding the projection 84. Female threads are formed on an inner surface of the cylindrical wall 82 and are to be engaged with male threads on an outward extension 261 of the cap 10 to be described later. After the cap 10 is removed, the female threads are threadably

engaged with a connector of a catheter or the like. The threadably engaged portions are configured to be hermetically sealed.

Please replace the first full paragraph, page 6 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to FIG 3, the absorption member 40 is a cylindrical member provided with a passage penetrating therethrough at the center thereof, i.e. an annular cylindrical member. In the present embodiment, the absorption member 40 is preferably made of a material that can absorb and hold a liquid well. Sponge that is a foam material, and fiber materials such as cloth may be used. As an example, a sponge made of melamine formaldehyde polycondensate may be used. However, the material of the absorption member in the present invention is not limited thereto. Any material that can absorb liquid well may be used. The absorption member 40 has inner and outer diameters such that it can be tightly fitted between an inner surface of the sidewall 22 and an outer surface of the inward extension 262 of the connection tube 26. An outer surface of the absorption member 40 is in contact with the sidewall 22 of the main body 20. One end of the absorption member is fixedly fitted into an annular space between the inward extension 262 of the connection tube 26 and the sidewall 22 of the main body 20. The other end of the absorption member is supported by the closure 30 to be described later.

Please replace the first full paragraph, page 7 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to FIG 3, the insertion boss 34 comprises first to third extensions 35, 36 and 37 that are circular in cross section and have outer diameters sequentially decreased toward the end of the insertion boss. The outer diameter of the first extension 35 is determined to be in close contact with the inner surface of the sidewall 22 of the main body 20. This is to cause the insertion boss to be tightly fitted and prevent it from escaping when the closure 30 is fitted through the opening of the main body 20. Alternatively, the closure 30 may be coupled to the main body 20 by means of an adhesive so that they cannot be separated from each other. The second extension 36 has a diameter smaller than that of the first extension 35. There is a step between the first and second extensions 35 and 36.

Please replace paragraph no. 2, page 7 with the following amended paragraph:

The outer diameter of the third extension 37, which is smaller than that of the second extension 36, is determined such that the third extension can be tightly fitted into the liquid absorption member 40. There is a step between the second and third extensions 36 and 37. The third extension 37 is inserted lengthwise into the liquid absorption member 40. An outer surface of the third extension 37 is in close contact with an inner surface of the absorption member 40, and the end of the absorption member 40 abuts on the step between the second and third extensions 36 and 37. A distal end of the third extension 37 is tapered so that it can be smoothly inserted into the absorption member 40. The third extension 37 functions to prevent the liquid absorption member 40 from abutting on the air pass filter 50 or to prevent liquid absorbed by the liquid absorption member 40 from abutting on the air pass filter 50 due to outflow of the

absorbed liquid. If the liquid abuts on the air pass filter 50 or air exhaust hole ~~50~~ 321, air cannot be properly exhausted or it takes a great deal of time to exhaust the air.

Please replace paragraph no. 3, page 7 (which bridges over to page 8) with the following amended paragraph:

The air pass filter 50 is made of a liquid impermeable and gas permeable material and completely closes up the passage 321. That is, the air pass filter is made of a material through which liquid cannot permeate but gas can permeate. Preferably, the air pass filter 50 can be made and used by processing a porous plastic resin material having such a property into a shape suitable for the passage. Such a material for the air pass filter is available from Porex Corporation (website: www.porex.com) located at Fairburn, GA 30213, U.S.A. The product under the trademark "Porex Hydrophobic Vents" available from Porex Corporation may be used. This product is made of ~~polyethyle~~ polyethyl polytetrafluoroethylene. The material for the air pass filter is also available from Micropore Plastics, Inc. located at Stone Mountain, Georgia, U.S.A. The air pass filter 50 has such elasticity that it can be slightly shrunken while being fitted into the passage 321 of the closure 30 and then can be restored to its original state in place.

Please replace the first full paragraph, page 8 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to FIGS. 2 and 3, air 91 exists just behind a portion of liquid medicine, which has first reached the end of the tube, within the tube 90. The portion of liquid medicine is introduced into the cap 10 through the communication hole 86 of the connection member 80. The first introduced portion of liquid medicine is completely absorbed by the liquid absorption member 40 having liquid absorbency before it abuts on the air pass filter 50. The portion of

liquid medicine that has already been absorbed by the absorption member 40 is prevented from again flowing into the air pass filter 50 by means of the third extension 37 of the closure 30.

When the first introduced portion of liquid medicine is completely absorbed by the liquid absorption member 40, the subsequently introduced air ~~80~~ 91 reaches the air pass filter 50 and then naturally and completely escapes to the outside through the liquid impermeable and gas permeable air pass filter 50 and the air exhaust hole 321. Consequently, only liquid medicine remains within the cap 10. Then, the cap 10 is rotated to be separated from the distal end connection member 80 and connected to a catheter or the like, so that only the liquid medicine with air completely removed therefrom can be supplied.